

organ-specific changes of the syndrome. There are brief descriptions of the clinical features and systemic complications associated with sepsis. Each organ system is considered separately, with a final, brief discussion of the multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. The last and most clinically relevant section discusses the diagnosis, assessment, and management of sepsis. Guidelines for treatment are clearly described. The importance of early and appropriate antimicrobial treatment and adequate fluid resuscitation, as well as the benefits of ventilation, inotropes, and nutritional support, are highlighted. Controversial issues such as the optimal hematocrit and choice of resuscitation fluids are presented well and in an unbiased fashion. Key topics such as the limitations of invasive monitoring and the optimization of respiratory support are also discussed. The approach is not to review all the current literature, but rather to present a brief outline of these topics.

This excellent textbook covers all the important areas relevant to sepsis. Given the rapid changes in our knowledge of the basis of sepsis, such a textbook will always lag behind current research and may not appeal to the expert. Even so, the basics do not change, and this book (particularly the last two sections) is informative, well researched, and well written.

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